

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 7, 2004. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the objections/rejections set forth in the Office Action in view of these remarks, and the above claim amendments. Applicant thanks the examiner for his indication of allowability of claims 7-12 and 28-33.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to the claims 7-12 and 28-33 for being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 7 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof were added to claim 1. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to be claim 7 rewritten in independent form. Claims 8-10 are also amended to be in independent form. Claims 11 and 12 remain as originally presented, but claim 10 on which they were dependent is no longer dependent on a rejected claim. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8-12 should be allowed because their subject matter was indicated to be allowable and they are no longer dependent on rejected claims.

Claim 28 has been cancelled and rewritten to be in independent form by adding its limitations to amended claim 25. Thus, claim 25 has been amended to be claim 28 rewritten in independent form. Claims 29-31 are now amended to be in independent form. Claims 32 and 33 remain as originally presented, but claim 31 on which they were dependent is no longer dependent on a rejected claim. Accordingly, claims 25 and 29-33 should be allowed because their subject matter was indicated to be allowable and they are no longer dependent on rejected claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Dougherty (U.S. 6,668,296). Regarding claim 1, claim 1 as mentioned above is now original claim 7 rewritten in independent form, and per the examiner's indication of allowability should thus be allowable. Claims 2, 4, and 6 are now dependent on amended claim

1 and should thus also be allowable, because the subject matter of amended claim 1 was indicated to be allowable. Claims 16-24 have been amended to add the limitation that was indicated to be allowable in claim 7. Furthermore, claims 16-18 are dependent on amended claim 1 which is claim 7 rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 was indicated to be allowable, and thus claims 16-18 should be allowable because they are dependent on an allowable claim.

Claims 3, 5, 13-15, 25-27 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Dougherty et al. Claims 3, 5, and 13-15 are now dependent on amended claim 1 and should thus also be allowable, because the subject matter of amended claim 1 was indicated to be allowable. Claim 25 has been amended to be claim 28 in independent form. Claim 28 was indicated to be allowable and thus claim 25 should now be allowable. Claim 26 is cancelled. Claims 27, and 34-36 are now dependent on amended claim 25 and should thus also be allowable, because the subject matter of amended claim 25 was indicated to be allowable.

New claims 37-47 should be allowable because they all include the same limitation that was indicated to be allowable in original claim 7. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 7, new claims 37-47 should also be allowable.

New claims 48-58, 81-84, and 93-94 should be allowable because they all include the same limitation that was indicated to be allowable in original claim 8. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 8, new claims 48-58, 81-84, and 93-94 should also be allowable.

New claims 59-69, 85-88, and 95-96 should be allowable because they all incorporate the limitation given in original claim 9. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 9, new claims 59-69, 85-88, and 95-96 should also be allowable.

New claims 70-80, 89-92, and 97-98 should be allowable because they all incorporate the limitation given in original claim 10. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 10, new claims 70-80, 89-92, and 97-98 should also be allowable.

New claims 99-101 should be allowable because they all incorporate the limitation given in original claim 29. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 29, new claims 99-101 should also be allowable.

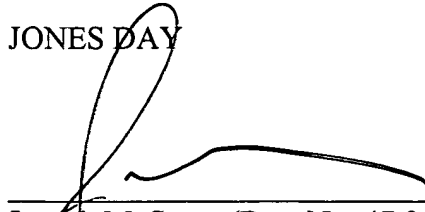
New claims 102-104 should be allowable because they all incorporate the limitation given in original claim 30. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 30, new claims 02-104 should also be allowable.

New claims 105-107 should be allowable because they all incorporate the limitation given in original claim 31. Because the examiner indicated the allowability of original claim 31, new claims 105-107 should also be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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